

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A terminal device coupled via a communication line to Internet connection service providing means for browsing via an Internet network a content server having stored contents therein, comprising:

5 content requesting means for issuing a content request to request a content selected by a user according to a content menu disposed for the user to select a desired content;

 counting means for counting a number of requests of a content requested by said content requesting means; and

10 notifying means for notifying information of a content of which the number of requests satisfies a predetermined notification condition, the information being added to the content request.

2. A terminal device coupled via a communication line to Internet connection service providing means for browsing via an Internet network a content server having stored contents therein, comprising:

5 content requesting means for issuing a content request to request a content selected by a user according to a content menu disposed for the user to select a desired content;

 counting means for counting a number of requests of a content requested by said content requesting means; and

10 notifying means for notifying information of a content of which the number of requests satisfies a predetermined notification condition, the information being added to the content request

 the counting means comprises:

15 storage means for storing therein the number of requests for each address of a content server in which the content selected by the

user is stored; and

adding means for adding the number of requests of the content for each request for the content,

20 or

the counting means comprises:

storage means for storing therein an address of said content server in which the content selected by the user is stored and a day and time of the selection; and

25 totaling means for conducting a retrieval through said storage means and for totaling the number of requests for each content within a predetermined period of time.

3. A terminal device coupled via a communication line to Internet connection service providing means for browsing via an Internet network a content server having stored contents therein, comprising:

5 content requesting means for issuing a content request to request a content selected by a user according to a content menu disposed for the user to select a desired content;

counting means for counting a number of requests of a content requested by said content requesting means;

10 notifying means for notifying information of a content of which the number of requests satisfies a predetermined notification condition, the information being added to the content request; and

15 further comprising wireless communication means to be coupled with said communication line via wireless communication.

4. A terminal device coupled via a communication line to Internet connection service providing means for browsing via an

Internet network a content server having stored contents therein, comprising:

5 content requesting means for issuing a content request to request a content selected by a user according to a content menu disposed for the user to select a desired content;

 counting means for counting a number of requests of a content requested by said content requesting means; and

10 notifying means for notifying information of a content of which the number of requests satisfies a predetermined notification condition, the information being added to the content request

 the counting means comprises:

15 storage means for storing therein the number of requests for each address of a content server in which the content selected by the user is stored; and

 adding means for adding the number of requests of the content for each request for the content,

20 or

 the counting means comprises:

 storage means for storing therein an address of said content server in which the content selected by the user is stored and a day and time of the selection; and

25 totaling means for conducting a retrieval through said storage means and for totaling the number of requests for each content within a predetermined period of time; and

 further comprising wireless communication means to be coupled with said communication line via wireless communication.

5. A terminal device in accordance with claims 1, wherein said content requesting means comprises means for receiving and

storing the content menu therein.

6. The terminal device in accordance with claim 2, wherein said content requesting means comprises means for receiving and storing the content menu therein.

7. The terminal device in accordance with claim 3, wherein said content requesting means comprises means for receiving and storing the content menu therein.

8. The terminal device in accordance with claim 4, wherein said content requesting means comprises means for receiving and storing the content menu therein.

9. The terminal device in accordance with one of claim 1, wherein said notifying means comprises means for receiving and storing the notification condition therein.

10. The terminal device in accordance with one of claim 2, wherein said notifying means comprises means for receiving and storing the notification condition therein.

11. The terminal device in accordance with one of claim 3, wherein said notifying means comprises means for receiving and storing the notification condition therein.

12. The terminal device in accordance with one of claim 4, wherein said notifying means comprises means for receiving and storing the notification condition therein.

13. A terminal device in accordance with one of claim 5, wherein said notifying means comprises means for receiving and storing the notification condition therein.

14. The terminal device in accordance with one of claim 6, wherein said notifying means comprises means for receiving and storing the notification condition therein.

15. A terminal device in accordance with one of claim 7, wherein said notifying means comprises means for receiving and storing the notification condition therein.

16. A terminal device in accordance with one of claim 8, wherein said notifying means comprises means for receiving and storing the notification condition therein.

17. An information collecting system for collecting taste information of taste of a user who browses a content provided by a content server connected to an Internet network, comprising:

a terminal device in accordance with one of claims 1 to 16;

5 Internet connection service providing means comprising

counting means for receiving a content request sent from the terminal device and counting a number of notifications of information of a content added to the content request,

10 storage means for storing the number of notifications and user information of the user with a correspondence established therebetween, and

transfer means for removing data added to the content request and for transferring the content request to a content server as a request destination; and

15 a communication network for mutually connecting a plural units of said terminal devices and said Internet connection service providing means to each other.

18. An information collecting system in accordance with claim 17, further comprising:

 a terminal device in accordance with claim 5 in place of a terminal device in accordance with one of claims 1 to 4; and

5 content menu providing means connected via an Internet network to said Internet connection service providing means for the user to select a desired content.

19. An information collecting system in accordance with claim 17, further comprising:

 a terminal device in accordance with claim 6 in place of a terminal device in accordance with one of claims 1 to 4; and

5 notification condition transmitting means for transmitting the notification condition to said terminal device.

20. An information collecting method of collecting taste information of taste of a user who browses a content provided by a content server connected to an Internet network, comprising the steps of:

5 counting, by a terminal device, a number of requests for each content to which the terminal device issued a request; adding, to a content request, information of the content of which the number of requests satisfies a predetermined notification condition and thereby notifying the information of the content; and

10 receiving, by an Internet connection service providing means, a content request sent from the terminal device, counting a number of

notifications of information of a content added to the content request, storing the number of notifications and user information of the user with a correspondence established therebetween, and removing data
 15 added to the content request and transferring the content request to a content server as a request destination.

21. An information collecting method in accordance with claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting, by content menu providing means including a content menu for the user to select a desired content, the content menu
 5 via the Internet connection service providing means to the terminal device; and

receiving the content menu by the terminal device for use of selection of a content and request for a content.

22. An information collecting method in accordance with claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting the notification condition by Internet connection service providing means; and

5 receiving, by the terminal device, the notification condition, adding information of the content to a content request, and notifying the content request.

23. An information collecting method in accordance with claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting the notification condition by Internet connection service providing means; and

5 receiving, by the terminal device, the notification condition, adding information of the content to a content request, and notifying the content request.